

30. ¹⁹ A method for adjusting flow directions in a backflow preventor assembly, comprising:
providing at least one backflow prevention valve;
encompassing said backflow prevention valve in a housing such that said valve automatically closes if flow through said housing drops below a predetermined value, said housing including at least first and second housing portions, said first portion having an inlet opening defining an inlet flow direction, and said second portion having an outlet opening defining an outlet flow direction;
positioning said outlet opening with respect to said inlet opening to define a first configuration of said backflow preventor assembly wherein said inflow direction and said outflow direction are in a first relationship
coupling said inlet opening to a fluid source and said outlet opening to a fluid sink to use said backflow preventor assembly in said first configuration;
reconfiguring said backflow preventor assembly to a second configuration different from said first configuration by rotating at least one of said first housing portion and said second housing portions with respect to the other, to any of an infinite number of positions, such that the relationship of said inflow direction and said outflow direction is different from said first relationship and;
tightening a coupling device to hold said first and second portions in said first relationship in a substantially leak-free manner.--

REMARKS

Claims 10-30 are pending.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The Examiner states that "first and second conduits each having first and

second end, said first and second conduits in a first relationship with said first ends of said first and second conduits being substantially adjacent and collinear" lacks "discussion or description" in the specification.


The claims have been amended to refer to first and second portions of the conduit for housing. Support is found, for example, at page 5, line 37, page 6, line 5, page 3, lines 1-2, page 3, lines 10-13, and in the abstract at lines 10-11. It is believed that in the context of the claims it is not important whether the terminology "conduit," "portions" of conduit or "housing" is used.

Support for the "adjacent and colinear" aspect is found in Fig. 14. An amendment can have proper support in the drawings as is clear from MPEP 608.04 and 37 C.F.R. §1.118.

Claims 10-21 are rejected for the reasons set forth in the objection to the specification. In view of the amendments to the claims and the support for the claims pointed out above, it is believed that claims 10-21 are in compliance with 35 USC §112.

Claims 22-23 are rejected as anticipated by Brewer, et al. The Examiner states that the "clamp" is read on the bolt/flange connection which is tightened to hold the "positions" in "a substantially leak-free manner."

Without necessarily admitting that Brewer, et al. represents citable prior art, claim 22 has been amended to include the step of moving at least a first portion to cause a change in the outflow direction to any of an infinite number of outflow directions. Bolt and flange connections would, at most, permit rotation to a finite number of discreet positions. Accordingly, claim 22 is patentable at least because Brewer, et al. fails to disclose between a first portion of the housing to



cause a change in the outflow direction to any of an infinite number of outflow directions.

Claim 23 is patentable at least as dependent from claim 22.

Claims 10-21 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) by the device of Fig. 7.

The Examiner states that the "housing" is read on the entire assembly from inlet conduit to the outlet conduit. As noted above, Applicants agree that it makes no difference whether the term "housing" or "conduit" (or, indeed, "conduit portion") is used. The claims have been amended to recognize this by exclusively using the terms "conduit" and "conduit portions" in claim 10 and using the terms "housing" and "housing portions" in claims 18 and 22.

The Examiner states, among other things, that the "first means" is read on the bolt/flange connection.

Claim 10 has been amended to provide that the first means permits movement to any of an infinite number of positions. As noted above, a bolt/flange connection permits movement to, at most, a finite number of positions.

Claims 11-17 are patentable at least as dependent from claim 10. The Examiner has made unsupported assertions of inherency with regard to claims 13, 16 and 17 and Applicants do not necessarily agree with these assertions of inherency. The Examiner also asserts that the remaining limitations are "readily apparent" and Applicants do not necessarily agree with this unsupported assertion of the Examiner.

Claim 18 has been amended in a manner similar to the amendment to claim 10, except for the use of the terminology "housing," as noted above. Claim 18 is patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 1. Claims 19 and 20 are patentable at least as dependent from claim

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18. Claim 21 has been deleted without intending to abandon any patentable subject matter that may be contained therein.

New claims 24-30 have been added directed to disclosed subject matter. Claims 24-27 are patentable at least as dependent, directly or indirectly, from claim 18. Support for claim 24 is found e.g., at page 20, lines 31-32. Support for claim 25 is found e.g., at page 11, lines 33-38. Support for claim 26 is found e.g., at Figs. 13, 16A, 17A and 18A. Support for claim 27 is found e.g., at page 7.

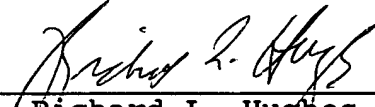
Claims 28 and 29 are patentable at least for reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 10. Claim 30 is patentable at least for reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 22.

The application now appearing to be in form for allowance, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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